AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended)

An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a memory which stores a plurality of captured images and additional information concerning the images;

an image selector which selects an image to be erased from the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a determination device which reads the additional information concerning the selected image to be erased and determines whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the read additional information;

an eraser which erases the selected image to be erased from the memory if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory, and prohibits the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a display which displays that the selected image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently if the determination device determines that the

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selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory; and

a decision device which decides whether to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory,

wherein the eraser erases the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory if the decision device decides to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image, and

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a panoramic image composed of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)

An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a memory which stores a plurality of captured images and additional information concerning the images;

an image selector which selects an image to be erased from the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a determination device which reads the additional information concerning the selected image to be erased and determines whether or not the selected image to be

erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the read additional information;

an eraser which erases the selected image to be erased from the memory if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory, and prohibits the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a display which displays that the selected image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory; and

a decision device which decides whether to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory,

wherein the eraser erases the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory if the decision device decides to collectively erase the selected image and the ~~at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image, and

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a sequence of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory that were consecutively captured.

Claim 5.   (Previously Presented)

The image processing apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the image processing apparatus is an electronic camera capturing the images.

Claims 6–7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended)

A method for erasing an image from a memory, comprising the steps of:

selecting the image to be erased from a plurality of captured images stored in the memory;

reading an additional information concerning the image selected in the selecting step;

determining whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the additional information read in the reading step;

erasing the selected image from the memory if it is determined that the selected image does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step;

prohibiting the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if it is determined that the selected images to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step;

if it is determined that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step, displaying that the selected image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently, and deciding whether to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of the~~ all the images relating to the selected image to be erased from the memory; and

erasing the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory if it is decided to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory in the deciding step,

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a panoramic image composed of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended)

A method for erasing an image from a memory, comprising the steps of:

selecting the image to be erased from a plurality of captured images stored in the memory;

reading an additional information concerning the image selected in the selecting step;

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determining whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the additional information read in the reading step;

erasing the selected image from the memory if it is determined that the selected image does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step;

prohibiting the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if it is determined that the selected images to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step;

if it is determined that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step, displaying that the selected image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently, and deciding whether to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of the~~ all the images relating to the selected image to be erased from the memory; and

erasing the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory if it is decided to collectively erase the selected image and ~~the at least one of the plurality of~~ all the images relating to the selected image from the memory in the deciding step,

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a sequence of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory that were consecutively captured.

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